LIBRARY

WEDNESFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WILLIAM BENTLEY

FOR THE YEAR 1946

N. BUDD (W'TON) LTD., PRINTERS,
TELEPHONE:
21570

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30242538

WEDNESFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WILLIAM BENTLEY

FOR THE YEAR 1946

N. BUDD (W'TON) LTD., PRINTERS,
TELEPHONE:
21570

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of WEDNESFIELD.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the District for the year ending December 31st, 1946.

The Birth-rate was 19 26 per 1,000 of the population.

The Death-rate was 8 72 per 1,000 of the population.

The Infant Mortality rate is 61.48 compared with 66.28 in 1945

The Infant Mortality for England & Wales was 43.

Combined with my report is that of your Sanitary Inspector,

In conclusion I would like to express thanks to all those who have co-operated in the work of the Health Department during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM BENTLEY,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT:—

Medical Officer of Health W. BENTLEY, L.M S.S.A.

Sanitary Inspector } P. H. G. GRIMMETT,
Meat & Foods Inspector } M.R San.I., M.S.I.A., R.P.

Health Visitors ... Miss RICHARDS
Mrs. REILLY.

Area	2,515 acres
Population (estimated) ...	16,315
Inhabited Houses	4,657
Rateable Value	£62,256
General Rate	16/-
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£237

ADOPTION ACTS, &c.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890, Part III.

Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907, Part II (other than Sections 23, 24 and 27), III, IV, V, VI, and Section 95 comprised in Part X.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 21 and Part V.

As to parts of the District, the Council is invested with the powers granted to a Rural District Council by section 6 of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

Males		Females		Total		Rate
L	I	L	I	L	I	per 1000
158	8	141	2	299	10	19.26

STILLBIRTHS

2	-	3	-	4	1

DEATHS

Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000
79	61	140	8.72

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths under one year.

Males		Females		Total		Rate
L	I	L	I	L	I	per 1000
11	-	7	1	18	1	61.48

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth

From Sepsis - NONE

From other causes - ONE

INFANT MORTALITY during Year 1946.

Causes of Death	Total under one year	Under 1 day	1 to 7 days	7 to 14 days	14 to 28 days	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months
Prematurity	4	3	1						
Pneumonia	3			1		1		1	
Enteritis	1						1		
Marasmus									
Bronchitis	2				1	1			
Debility	2		1	1					
Convulsions	2		1			1			
Accidental Asphyxia	1	1							
Congenital Heart Disease	2	1	1						
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1		1						
Congenital Malformation	1	1							
TOTALS	19	6	5	2	1	3	1	1	

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WEDNESFIELD U.D.

Causes of Death	1942		1943		1944		1945		1946	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
All Causes.	82	63	86	76	68	70	79	63	79	61
	145		162		138		142		140	
teric Fever										
hall Pox										
easles	...	...	...	1	...	...	1			
arlet Fever										
hooping Cough	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1		
phtheria including Membranous Croup	1	...	1	...	...	...	1			
luenza	1	1	1	4	1					
cephalitis Lethargica ...										
rebro-Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	
eningococcal Meningitis ...										
philis	...	1								
berculosis of the Respiratory System	8	3	2	...	1	4	5	4	6	1
Other Forms	1	...	...	2	1	...	1	1	2	
ncer Malignant Disease ...	16	9	9	9	11	6	8	7	11	9
eurysm										
abetes	...	1	...	3	...	...	1	1	...	1
P.I. Tabes &c.										
rebral Hæmorrhage... ...	5	4	8	6	3	13	2	3	3	2
art Disease	18	13	16	15	15	14	15	16	15	21
ner Circulatory Diseases ...	...	2	...	...	3	1	...	1	3	
onchitis	2	...	4	2	7	7	8	2	8	4
eumonia, all forms	4	6	7	4	...	5	3	3	5	5
ner Respiratory Diseases ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	
cer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	2	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	
arrhœa (under 2 years) ...	1	1	2	3	1	1	3	1	...	1
pendicitis	2	1	1	...	...	1	...	1		
rhosis of Liver										
Other Diseases of Liver, &c. ...										
Other digestive diseases ...	2	...	4	...	1	3	2	2	3	
ute and Chronic Nephritis ...	3	2	3	5	3	4	2	1	...	2
erperal Sepsis	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
ner Diseases and accidents of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	...	1	...	1						
ngenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Births	5	7	6	7	5	5	8	3	6	5
ad Accidents	...	...	1	...	1	...	1			
icide	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
ner Deaths from Violence ...	3	...	3	...	3	1	5	1	2	1
ner Defined Diseases ...	7	8	17	10	10	5	11	15	10	7
uses ill defined or unknown ...										
Estimated Population ...	15,240		15,250		15,340		15,450		16,040	
Total Deaths	145		162		138		142		140	
Death Rate	9.51		10.62		8.99		9.19		8.72	

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

Diphtheria swabs and other specimens are sent to the County Bacteriological Laboratory at Stafford and to the Pathological Laboratory at the Royal Hospital for examination.

Ambulance Facilities

For the removal of infectious cases an ambulance is provided by the hospital authorities who take the patient.

Nursing in the Home

Wednesfield Nursing Association, an organisation supported by voluntary contributions, provides one nurse who gives professional service to necessitous non-infectious cases. When infectious cases are kept at home the mother of the patient usually acts as nurse, under the direction of the medical attendant.

Maternity and Child Welfare

Under the direction of the Staffordshire County Council a Welfare Centre is held at the Wesleyan Sunday School, Well Lane. Valuable advice and assistance may be obtained free at this Centre. The times of attendance are as follows :—

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Weekly.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Fortnightly.

Children attending the Infant Welfare Centre can be referred to an Opthalmic Surgeon, and for orthopædic treatment and dental treatment under the County Council's schemes. Dental treatment is also provided for expectant and nursing mothers.

Dried milks and vitamens are stocked at the Food Office and retailed at reduced cost prices under the National Scheme.

From time to time lectures on mothercraft are given

Hospitals.

On October 1st 1941 the Joint Hospital Board opened Moxley Hospital for the reception of cases of Infectious Disease. This is a great improvment on our previous arrangements when we had to rely on outside Authorities to take our cases.

Smallpox

Provision is made under the South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Board.

Maternity

By arrangement with the County Council the Royal Hospital Wolverhampton will take difficult cases requiring hospital treatment.

Accommodation at the Rosemary Ednam Maternity House is also available.

Two Registered Midwives reside within the District.

Medical and Surgical

The Royal Hospital, the Women's Hospital, and the Eye Infirmary, Wolverhampton, are all within easy distance.

Wordsley Hospital is also available for patients who cannot obtain accommodation elsewhere.

Nursery.

This has been used to full capacity during the year. It is a great help to mothers. A high state of efficiency is maintained.

Sanitary Circumstances

Combined with this report is that of your Sanitary Inspector it has been found much more suitable to the setting out of the Reports to combine the two rather than separate them.

Water

The supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes is good and adequate and is obtained from Wolverhampton Corporation.

SUMMARY

June 12th to December 31st, 1946.

Total complaints, enquiries, etc. for attention ...	356
Made up as follows :—	
General Housing and nuisance complaints, etc. ...	231
Civil Building Licensing Control	125
Notices served requiring repairs and abatement of Nuisances	85
Outstanding at end of year	63
Number of inspections—Housing	510
Slaughterhouses and Offensive Trades	5
Other inspections—Nuisances etc.	235
Dairies and Cowsheds	15
Factories and Workshops	7
Visits in case of infectious Disease	52
Disinfections	44
Disinfestations	12
Civil Building Control Regulation, 56A	136
Bedding etc. destroyed at owners request	NIL

Commencing October 1st, 1946, a new drain clearing system was brought into operation. A charge being levied against all private works, and 30 such works, brought in a gross income of £15/8/6 in the 3 months period.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

Number of Council houses disinfested	...	...	3
Number of other houses disinfested	..	...	9

Method used, Insecticide Spray with D.D.T.

Schools

There are now seven Public Elementary Schools within the District, all these have a satisfactory supply of water piped from the mains and the sanitary conditions are generally good.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(1 (*a*) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Honsing Acts) 156

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 450

The following table is an itemsed and temporarily classified result of a survey undertaken in Nov. to ascertain housing requirements of the district.

1	Scheduled Slum Clearance, 1939	10
2	,, Individually unfit 1939	12
3	Unfit houses for early attention	55
4	Sub-Std., Road widening 1st stage re-development	296
5	,, ,, ,, 2nd ,, ,,	362
	Total	735

The above, together with applications for houses from sub-tenants indicated a potential need of at least 1,500 houses in Wednesfield against which roughly 100 are in varying stages of construction.

Action under Statutary Powers during the year.

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... —

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—

(*a*) by Owners ... ... —

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of Owners ... —

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... —

(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after serval of formal notice :—

(*a*) by Owners ... ... —

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of Owners ... —

C.—Proceediegs under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... —

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... —

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made ... —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... —

Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding:—

(a)	1	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of year	–
	2	Number of families dwelling therein	–
	3	Number of persons dwelling therein	–
b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	–
(c)	1	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	–
	2	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	–

HOUSING ACT 1936

Progress under Slum Clearance Schemes

Position according to registers at 21st December 1944.

Houses in Clearance Areas

Orchard Buildings	14
Rickyard	8
High Street	7
	29

Individual Unfit Houses

Number on Register	39
	68

Number of houses provided	30
Undertakings from owners accepted	9
Cases where re-housing has not been necessary ...	9
Number of houses required at 31st December 1942 ...	20
	68

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1933

Seven licenses to slaughter and stun animals were granted during the year.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOODS ADULTERATION, Etc.

Samples of Foods and Drugs are taken by the County Council for examination, they being the responsible Authority.

MILK SUPPLY

Building development has taken its toll of the grazing land in the district, with the result that the number of Dairy Farms is now reduced to sixteen, these are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector.

DESIGNATED MILK

Eight Supplementary Licenses and two Dealers Licenses to sell Designated Milk within the District during the year, were issued all supplies being obtained from other districts. The grades for which licenses were granted were as follows :—

PASTEURISED	...	...	5
TUBERCULIN TESTED		...	2
ACCREDITED	...	...	2

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notified during 1946.

Diseases	Number of Cases Notified. Age Periods—Years.												Total Cases admitted to Hospital
	All ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 upwards	
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	20	6	4	3	5		1	1					20
Erysipelas	2									1	1		
Scarlet Fever	56	14	25	14			3						41
Ophthalmia	3	3											3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	18		1		1	2	3	4	2	4	1		2
Other Forms	1			1									1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2					1	1						2
Puerperal Fever	1							1					1
Pneumonia	34	11	10		3		3	2	2	1	2		22
Whooping Cough	16	11	4	1									
Measles	21	7	14										2
Totals	174	52	58	19	9	3	11	8	4	6	4		94

SMALLPOX. No case was notified

SCARLET FEVER. 56 cases were notified compared with 15 in 1945. No death occurred

DIPHTHERIA 20 cases were noted throughout the year as against 22 in 1945. No death occurred 112 swabs from suspected cases were examined.

Immunisation against this disease is now available, and out of an estimated child population of 4190, 3314 children have been immunised.

ENTERIC FEVER. No case occurred.

MEASLES. 21 cases were notified. No death occurred.

WHOOPING COUGH 16 cases were notified. No death occurred.

TUBERCULOSIS. At the end of the year there remained on the register 120 persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 69 males and 51 females, and 65 persons, 31 males and 34 females, suffering from other forms of Tuberculosis, a total on the register of 185. From the following table it will be seen that 7 deaths were registered as due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 2 deaths occurred from other forms of Tuberculosis. 18 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year and 1 other form. 2 of the pulmonary cases were admitted to sanatoria.

TUBERCULOSIS, New Cases and Mortality during 1946

Age Periods—Years.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pul.		Non. Pul.		Pul.		Non. Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 to 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 to 5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 to 10	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
10 to 15	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 to 20	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 to 25	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
25 to 35	1	3	...	...	1	1	1	...
35 to 45	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
45 to 55	4	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
55 to 65	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 upwards ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	12	6	1	...	6	1	2	...

The Sanatoria for the district are :—

For Males Prestwood Sanatorium and Edge View Tuberculosis Hospital

For Females, Groundslow and Yarnfield

For Children, The Limes Sanatorium, Himley

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA no case occurred.

INFLUENZA & PNEUMONIA. During the year 34 cases of Pneumonia were notified as against 10 in 1945 and 8 in 1944. There were 10 deaths due to this cause against 6 in 1945
No death occurred from Influenza.

CANCER. 20 deaths occurred from this disease during the year, 11 males and 9 females.

Ages and Parts Affected.

PARTS AFFECTED	20 — 30		30 — 40		40 — 50		50 — 60		60 — 70		70 —		TOTAL
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
BREAST ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	...1 ..
LIVER .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	1...	...	1...	...3...
RECTUM ...	.	..	...	...	...	.	...	1..	...	...	1...	...	...2 ..
COLON ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1...	...1...
LUNG .	..	...	...	...	...	...	2 ..	...	...	...	...	..	...2...
STOMACH ..	...	...	...	...	1...	...	3...	...	...	3...	...	1...	...8...
PANCREAS ..	...	...	1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	...2...
BLADDER ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	...1...
	...	...	1	...	1...	..	5...	1...	1...	4...	1...	6...	...20...

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

YEAR	CASES NOTIFIED												DEATHS											
	Pneumonia	Puerperal Sepsis	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Malaria	Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Forms	Encephalitis Lethargica	Measles	Pneumonia	Puerperal Sepsis	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Malaria	Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Forms	Encephalitis Lethargica	Measles
1936	21	3	47	2	-	11	2	-	10	7	-	-	12	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	6	-	-	-
1937	15	2	22	5	-	14	6	-	21	4	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	11	-	-	-
1938	27	5	46	5	-	7	3	-	19	7	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	1	-
1939	10	4	35	6	-	12	3	-	14	4	-	-	5	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	8	1	-	-
1940	8	2	16	2	-	23	1	1	11	3	-	12	2	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	9	2	-	-
1941	14	3	59	4	-	43	4	-	17	4	-	129	10	1	1	-	-	4	-	-	10	3	-	-
1942	23	3	111	7	-	37	3	-	17	1	-	25	10	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	11	1	-	-
1943	59	6	77	6	-	23	4	-	10	5	-	245	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	2	-	1
1944	6	3	33	2	-	2	1	-	18	10	-	12	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-
1945	10	-	15	1	-	22	-	-	16	7	-	106	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	9	2	-	1
1946	34	3	56	2	-	20	3	-	18	1	-	21	10	1	-	-	-		-	-	7	2	-	-